

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended) A truss fabrication system for fabricating trusses from truss components including truss members and connectors joining together the truss members, the truss fabrication system comprising:

a table including a table top and legs supporting the table top and extending to the floor, the table top being adapted to receive truss components arranged with at least some connectors engaging at least some of the truss members; and

a gantry press including a gantry mounted for movement along a path relative to the table over the upper surface for pressing the connectors into the truss members for joining the truss members together, a side portion of the gantry being located on a side of the table, a motor for driving movement of the gantry relative to the table, and an obstruction detection device mounted on the gantry for detecting obstructions in the path of the gantry, the detection device having portions which are spaced apart vertically thereby defining a vertical detection plane such that the detection plane of the detection device has a vertical reach, the detection plane being located a predetermined distance from the gantry, the detection device being adapted to detect the presence of all obstructions entering the plane at substantially the same time for stopping movement of the gantry.

2. (original) A truss fabricating system as set forth in claim 1 wherein the detection device defines the vertical detection plane generally in alignment with the side portion of the gantry located on the side of the table.

3. (original) A truss fabricating system as set forth in claim 2 wherein the vertical detection plane is arranged generally perpendicular to the path movement of the gantry.

4. (original) A truss fabricating system as set forth in claim 3 wherein the detection device comprises a detection plate defining the vertical detection plane thereon, a linkage supporting the plate on the gantry for substantially linear movement relative to the gantry upon contacting an obstruction, and a switch adapted to shut off the motor upon linear movement of the detection plate relative to the gantry.

5. (original) A truss fabricating system as set forth in claim 4 wherein the detection device constitutes a first detection device located on a forward end of the gantry side portion, the system further comprising a second detection device located on a rearward end of the gantry side portion.

6. (original) A truss fabricating system as set forth in claim 5 wherein the gantry side portion constitutes a first gantry side portion, and wherein the gantry further comprises a second gantry side portion located on an opposite side of the table from the first gantry side portion, the system further comprising a third detection device located on a forward end of the second gantry side portion and a fourth detection device located on a rearward end of the second gantry side portion, the first, second, third and fourth detection devices being of substantially the same construction.

7. (original) A truss fabricating system as set forth in claim 4 wherein the linkage is resilient for automatically returning the vertical detection plane of the detection plate to said predetermined distance from the gantry.

8. (original) A truss fabricating system as set forth in claim 7 wherein the linkage comprises at least two rods slidably mounted on the gantry side portion and attached to the detection plate.

9. (original) A truss fabricating system as set forth in claim 7 wherein the linkage comprises bars pivotally interconnected with the detection plate and the gantry side portion to collapse upon movement of the detection plate relative to the gantry.

10. (original) A truss fabricating system as set forth in claim 4 further comprising shielding covering the linkage, the shielding being adapted to conform to the linkage upon movement of the detection plate relative to the gantry side portion to maintain coverage of the linkage.

Claims 11-20. (canceled)

21. (new) A truss fabrication system as set forth in claim 1 wherein at least a portion of said detection plane of the detection device is positioned at an elevation below the table top.

22. (new) A truss fabrication system for fabricating trusses from truss components including truss members and connectors joining together the truss members, the truss fabrication system comprising:

a table including a table top and legs supporting the table top and extending to the floor, the table top being adapted to receive truss components arranged with at least some connectors engaging at least some of the truss members;
and

a gantry press including a gantry mounted for movement along a path relative to the table over the upper surface for pressing the connectors into the truss

members for joining the truss members together, a side portion of the gantry being located on a side of the table, a motor for driving movement of the gantry relative to the table, and an obstruction detection device mounted on the gantry for detecting obstructions in the path of the gantry, the detection device defining a vertical detection plane located a predetermined distance from the gantry, the detection device being adapted to detect the presence of all obstructions entering the plane at substantially the same time for stopping movement of the gantry;

wherein the detection device is mounted on the gantry generally adjacent to the side of the table with the vertical detection plane being generally in alignment with the side portion of the gantry, such that the detection device is adapted for detecting obstructions which are located beside the table.

23. (new) A truss fabrication system as set forth in claim 22 wherein at least a portion of said detection plane of the detection device is positioned at an elevation below the table top.

24. (new) A truss fabricating system as set forth in claim 22 wherein the vertical detection plane is arranged generally perpendicular to the path movement of the gantry.

25. (new) A truss fabricating system as set forth in claim 24 wherein the detection device comprises a detection plate defining the vertical detection plane thereon, a linkage supporting the plate on the gantry for substantially linear movement relative to the gantry upon contacting an obstruction, and a switch adapted to shut off the motor upon linear movement of the detection plate relative to the gantry.

26. (new) A truss fabricating system as set forth in claim 25 wherein the detection device constitutes a first detection device located on a forward end of the

gantry side portion, the system further comprising a second detection device located on a rearward end of the gantry side portion.

27. (new) A truss fabricating system as set forth in claim 26 wherein the gantry side portion constitutes a first gantry side portion, and wherein the gantry further comprises a second gantry side portion located on an opposite side of the table from the first gantry side portion, the system further comprising a third detection device located on a forward end of the second gantry side portion and a fourth detection device located on a rearward end of the second gantry side portion, the first, second, third and fourth detection devices being of substantially the same construction.